

Serial No.: 09/679,802
Attorney Docket No.: F-209

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 1 -23 were currently pending in the Application. Applicant has filed concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Prosecution (RCE) requesting that the January 12, 2004 Amendment After Final be entered with this Amendment.

Applicant appreciates the telephone interview extended by the Examiner and supervisor on January 22, 2004.

Applicant has further amended claims 1, 9 and 17. Applicant has canceled claims 2, 11 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has added new claim 24.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-10, 12-18 and 20-24 will remain pending in the application.

Priority Claim Objection

Applicant appreciates the telephone interview extended by the Examiner and supervisor on January 22, 2004.

Applicant appreciates the withdrawal of the priority claim objection that was apparently an error in the PTO docket system.

Pending Claim Rejections

In sections 6-14 of the September 10, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,323 to Gordon ("Gordon '323").

Serial No.: 09/679,802
Attorney Docket No.: F-209

Patent

In sections 15-18 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,323 to Gordon ("Gordon '323").

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the enclosed further amendment to claims 1, 9 and 17.

Claim 1 as amended recites:

"coordinating printing by the postage metering system of an indication of the third party payment on a mailpiece intended for delivery to a mailpiece recipient other than the payee."

New claim 24 recites:

"the indication of the third party payment is printed on a plurality of mailpieces intended for delivery to a plurality of mailpiece recipients other than the payee."

Claim 9 as amended recites:

"the payment data further includes a future date on which the payment is authorized for dispatch; and

dispatching payment from the data center to the payee for the payment amount in response to the receipt of payment data and the occurrence of the future date.

Claim 17 as amended recites:

"wherein the payment data further includes a future date on which the payment is authorized for dispatch; and

dispatching payment to the payee for the payment amount in response to the receipt of payment data and the occurrence of the future date."

Serial No.: 09/679,802
Attorney Docket No.: F-209

Patent

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1, 3-10, 12-18 and 20-24 is patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

AUTHORIZATION

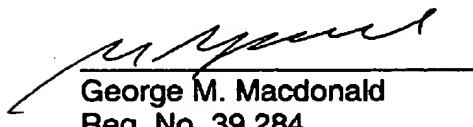
No fee, other than for the enclosed Request for Continued Examination (RCE), is believed due with this amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-209.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-209.

Serial No.: 09/679,802
Attorney Docket No.: F-209

Patent

Respectfully submitted,


George M. Macdonald
Reg. No. 39,284
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone (203) 924-3180

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

(10024860.1)

- 10 -

3/9/04 Amendment